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curve  [Audio Help](#) (kûrv) [Pronunciation Key](#)

n.

- a. A line that deviates from straightness in a smooth, continuous fashion.
- b. A surface that deviates from planarity in a smooth, continuous fashion.
- c. Something characterized by such a line or surface, especially a rounded line or contour of the human body.
- d. A line representing data on a graph.
- e. A trend derived from or as if from such a graph: *"Once again, the politicians are behind the curve"* (Ted Kennedy).
- f. The graph of a function on a coordinate plane.
- g. The intersection of two surfaces in three dimensions.
- h. The graph of the solutions to any equation of two variables.

2. A relatively smooth bend in a road or other course.

3.

- a. A line representing data on a graph.
- b. A trend derived from or as if from such a graph: *"Once again, the politicians are behind the curve"* (Ted Kennedy).
- c. The graph of a function on a coordinate plane.
- d.
- e. The graph of the solutions to any equation of two variables.

4. A graphic representation showing the relative performance of individuals as measured against each other, used especially as a method of grading students in which the assignment of grades is based on predetermined proportions of students.

5. *Mathematics*

- a. The graph of a function on a coordinate plane.
- b. The intersection of two surfaces in three dimensions.
- c. The graph of the solutions to any equation of two variables.

6. *Baseball* A curve ball.

7. *Slang* Something that is unexpected or designed to trick or deceive.

v. **curved, curv·ing, curves**

v. *intr.*

To move in or take the shape of a curve: *The path curves around the lake.*

v. *tr.*

2. *Baseball* To pitch a curve ball to.
3. To grade (students, for example) on a curve.

[From Middle English, *curved*, from Latin *curvus*; see *sker-*² in Indo-European roots. N., sense 6, short for *curve ball*.]

curv'ed·ness *n.*, **curv'y** *adj.*

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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition

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curved

adjective

having or marked by a curve or smoothly rounded bend; "the curved tusks of a walrus"; "his curved lips suggested a smile but his eyes were hard" [ant: straight]

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curved *adjective*

Example: *a curved blade*

Arabic: مُوْكَبٌ

Japanese: 曲線状の

Chinese (Simplified): 弯曲的

Korean: 굽은

Chinese (Traditional): 彎曲的

Latvian: izliekts

Czech: zkroucený,
zakřivený

Lithuanian: (iš)lenktas

Danish: krum; buet; kurvet

Norwegian: buet, bueformet,
krum

Dutch: gekromd

Polish: zakrzywiony

Estonian: kaardus

Portuguese (Brazil): curvo

Finnish: kaareva

Portuguese (Portugal): curvo

French: courbé

Romanian: curbat

German: gekrümmmt

Russian: изогнутый

Greek: κυρτός

Slovak: skrútený

Hungarian: görbe

Slovenian: ukrivljen

Icelandic: bogadreginn,
sveigður

Spanish: curvo, encorvado
Swedish: böjd, krökt,
svängd

Indonesian: melengkung

Turkish: eğri

Italian: curvo

See also: [curve](#)